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SUBJECT Dissensions Among Leading Communist Government
Officials in South and East China

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South China

1. In mid-1951 YEH Chien-ying, governor of Kwangtung Province, and FANG Fang, deputy governor, were openly clashing over methods of implementing agrarian land reform in Kwangtung.

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[REDACTED] CHU Kuang, deputy mayor of Canton, was not carrying out YEH Chien-ying's instructions and often acted without asking YEH for instructions. There has been friction between YEH and CHU for over a year. CHU goes to all official and social gatherings to show that, although he is the deputy mayor of Canton, he is the real boss.

East China

2. The clash between CH'EN I, commander of the Communist 3 Field Army and mayor of Shanghai, and LIU Po-ch'eng, commander of the 2 Field Army, goes back to the spring of 1949. At that time the Chinese Communist troops launched their southward drive and the 3 Field Army, led by CH'EN I, and the 2 Field Army, led by LIU Po-ch'eng, crossed the Yangtze River simultaneously from east and west of the Tientsin-P'uk'ou Railway. Then, as soon as Nanking, Shanghai, and Hangchow fell to the Communists, CH'EN and LIU began fighting over the control of the richest parts of Kiangsu and Chekiang and the taking over of big cities such as Nanking, Shanghai, and Hangchow. However, LIU was delayed in reaching the cities in East China, and they were seized by CH'EN, who at once took over the clothing, weapons, and other supplies left by the Nationalists, to equip his own troops, thus greatly strengthening the 3 Field Army. His troops were ordered to re-occupy in East China, while LIU Po-ch'eng was ordered to fight on to Fukien and Kiangsi. LIU's troops were neither well fed nor well paid and caused many disturbances to the local people while proceeding to Fukien and Kiangsi. As a result, LIU was severely criticized by higher military

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authorities, who declared his unit lacked discipline and that the best disciplined troops were those of LIN Piao followed by those of CH'EN I, and that the worst disciplined troops were those of LIU Po-ch'eng.

3. The clash between CH'EN I and JAO Shu-shih started when CH'EN I was appointed mayor of Shanghai in 1949. CH'EN usually made decisions regarding administrative work and the taking over of Shanghai without consulting JAO Shu-shih, political commissar to the 3 Field Army. Actually, the authority of the political commissar exceeded that of the unit commander. As a result, when Soong Ch'ing-ling suggested at the First People's Political Consultative Conference that CH'EN I be appointed deputy chairman of the Chinese Communist Central Committee, her suggestion was strongly opposed by LIU Po-ch'eng, JAO Shu-shih, LIN Piao, and others. Had it not been for CHOU En-lai's intervention on his behalf, CH'EN I would have been dismissed from the conference. Since then, the dissension between CH'EN I and JAO has become more open.
4. When the East China Military and Administrative District was established, MAO Tse-tung and CHOU En-lai decided to appease JAO by appointing him chairman of the new district. The commanders of similar districts elsewhere were commanders of field armies. JAO succeeded in having TSENG Shau-t'ung (曾山), a fellow native from Kiangsi and minister of the weaving industry, appointed as the first deputy chairman and SU YU appointed as the second deputy chairman. CH'EN I was appointed as a Regional District Council member. JAO also succeeded in winning over CH'EN Shih-ch'iu (陳士渠), chief of staff of the 3 Field Army, and WANG Chien-an (王健安), SUNG Shih-lun (宋时轮), and YEH Fei, all of whom were army group commanders. Since then, CH'EN I's prestige in East China has gradually decreased. In the spring of 1950, when the Soviet advisory group came to East China, SU was appointed by JAO Shu-shih to maintain direct contact with the group, which established its offices in Nanking. SU YU was in full charge of the combat training given to the Chinese Communist naval, army, and air forces by the Soviet advisers. He also made plans for invading Taiwan. CH'EN I became very displeased with SU Yu because he realized he was actually under the control of SU.
5. To counteract this, CH'EN I has maintained complete control over all of his army group commanders and has tightened his control over T'AN Chen-lin (谭振霖), commander of Chekiang Military District, RUAN Wen-wei (阮文蔚), commander of the Southern Kiangsu Military District, HUO Hui-ming (霍希明), commander of the Northern Kiangsu Military District, WEI Ming (魏明), commander of the Southern Anhwei Military District, SUNG Jih-ch'ang (宋日昌), commander of the Northern Anhwei Military District, K'IO Ch'ing-shih (柯庆施) in Nanking, and others. He also tried to win over YEH Fei, commander of the 10 Army Group in Fukien, and CHANG Ting-ch'eng (张鼎丞), chairman of Fukien Province, in order to increase his prestige. JAO Shu-shih tried to expand his influence by controlling the economy, construction, and food supply of East China; and all persons in charge of various government-owned enterprises in Shanghai and those in charge of the Ministry of Trade are fellow natives of JAO from Kiangsi. JAO also tightened his control over the Communist Party organization in East China. SU Yu has been trying to win the confidence of the Soviet advisory group and to use his party, political, and military training work as a preparation for taking over CH'EN I's command of the Field

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Army. To strengthen his influence militarily, he has been trying to win over SUNG Shih-lun, YEH Pei, CH'EN Shih-ch'u, and CHANG Ting-ch'eng.¹

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Comment. Recent activities of some of the persons reported are as follows:

CH'EN I

it was rumored that CH'EN I was purged and that the command of the 3 Field Army had been turned over to JAO Shu-shih; however, later reports state that CH'EN appeared in Shanghai at the 1 July 1951 celebrations of the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese Communist Party, and that he attended a special military conference in Peiping in July. He also went to Peiping in August, leaving JAO Shu-shih in charge of military affairs.

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CH'EN Shih-ch'u

in July 1951 the Revolutionary Military Council was reported to be considering CH'EN Shih-ch'u as a senior commander for duty in Korea under a rotation scheme for service in Korea.

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CHU Kuang

CHU Kuang considers YEH Chien-ying a pillar of the Nationalist clique within the Communist Party and so opposes the appointment of YEH as commander of the new field army to be organized in South China.

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FANG Fang

FANG Fang and YEH Chien-ying instructed JAO Chang-feng to survey Kwangai for the purpose of bringing about a closer organization of political parties.

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JAO Shu-shih

When CH'EN I went to Peiping in August 1951, JAO Shu-shih was left in charge of military affairs in East China.

LIU Po-ch'eng

LIU Po-ch'eng is head of the Nationalist clique of the Communist Party and commands more popular confidence than CHU Te, according to one report. According to another, a split within the Chinese Communist Party is possible if pressure is exerted from outside, and General LIU Po-ch'eng, HSU Hsiang-chien, and YEH Chien-ying would be likely to secede from the pro-Soviet clique. LIU supports CHOU En-lai's clique in seeking a cease-fire in Korea.

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SU Yu

in July the Revolutionary Military Council was reported to be considering SU as a senior commander for duty in Korea under a rotation scheme for duty in Korea.

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SUNG Shih-lun

SUNG Shih-lun, commander of the 9 Army Group, 3 Field Army, was reported wounded

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In Korea and in July the Revolutionary Military Council was reported to be considering SUNG as a senior commander for duty in Korea under a rotation scheme

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T'AN Chen-lin

: T'AN Chen-lin is chairman of Chekiang Province.

WANG Chien-an

: WANG Chien-an is commander of the 7 Army Group, 3 Field Army, which is stationed along the Chekiang coast, and is being considered as a senior commander for service in Korea. [REDACTED]

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YEH Chien-ying

: YEH Chien-ying, LIU Po-ch'eng, and HSU Hsiang-chien would be likely to secede from the pro-Soviet clique of the Chinese Communist Party if pressure from outside were exerted on the party. [REDACTED]

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YEH Fei

: YEH Fei, commander of the 10 Army Group, 3 Field Army, is being considered as a senior commander for service in Korea. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Comment. [REDACTED]

reports the reassignment of certain key personnel in East China, some of which conflict with the information given above, as follows:

YEH Fei : appointed Commander of the Fukien Military District.

T'AN Chen-lin: appointed Political Commissar of the Chekiang Military District.

Commander of the Southern Kiangsu Military District: LIU Hsion-sheng.

Commander of the Northern Kiangsu Military District: CHANG Chen-tung.

Commander of the Southern Anhwei Military District: LIU Fei.

Commander of the Northern Anhwei Military District: TSENG Hsi-sheng.

Political Commissar of the Fukien Military District: CHANG Ting-ch'eng.

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1 [REDACTED] Comment. This statement conflicts with the statement in paragraph 4 that JAO Shu-shih won over the army group commanders.